



PRESS RELEASE

06-213

Today's Date: Tuesday, July 11, 2006
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FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

THREATS/VANDALISM JEOPARDIZE 138 PROJECT IN WRIGHTWOOD

Wrightwood – Due to illegal activities at the State Route 138 road improvement project site, Caltrans, local elected officials, law enforcement, and the contractor, Yeager/Skanska, held a press conference today to request the help of the community. The contractor has reported that some of the employees have been threatened and the site has been subjected to acts of vandalism, theft, and trespassing.

Verbal and physical threats have been made to the contractor's employees. Both Caltrans and the contractor have a zero tolerance policy regarding these issues. Law enforcement is present at the site to assist the contractor with these safety concerns.

The contractor also reports that individuals in the area are moving the construction barriers after hours in order to drive on the segment of road that is under construction. The public is to be advised that this is not only trespassing, it is very dangerous. This segment of road has been demolished and is in various stages of reconstruction. The safety of motorist is an integral part of Caltrans' mission and this road is not safe for traveling. Escorts are available for commuting Monday through Friday from 5:00 AM to 7:00 AM and from 6:00 PM to 8:00 PM. Weekend escorts are also available if construction crews are not scheduled to work. Escort hours can be obtained by visiting the Caltrans website at www.dot.ca.gov/dist8/ or calling the Public Affairs office.

Caltrans and the contractor and the elected officials have worked to accommodate the community by providing these escorts to help ease the commuting difficulties during the road improvement project. However, Caltrans is advising the public that the escorts will cease if the threats, vandalism, trespassing, and thefts continue.

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Caltrans would also encourage all semi's and tractor-trailer trucks to use the alternate route of I-15, State Route 395, and State Route 18. State Route 138 between State Route 2 and Beekley Road is currently a graded dirt road. This road cannot accommodate vehicles weighing more than five tons.

Caltrans strives to complete all projects as quickly and safely as possible. These activities could delay the completion of this project. A delay in completion would adversely affect the local communities. Caltrans urges the public to do their part by obeying all traffic officials and detour signs. Please also remember to slow for the cone zone. This will help to ensure the safety of motorists and workers alike. By working together, we can keep this project on schedule and deliver a safer and more efficient State Route 138 for all.

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